



1775
J.P.M

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Patricia Preikschat et al.

Serial No.: 09/904,993 Art Unit: 1775

Filed: July 13, 2001

Title: CHROMIUM(VI)-FREE CONVERSION LAYER
AND METHOD FOR PRODUCING IT

Docket No.: 31716US1

STATUS INQUIRY

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In the above-referenced patent application, the U.S. Patent Office issued a Notice of Allowance on March 25, 2004. Thereafter, on June 23, 2004, applicant paid the issue fee. It has now been more than 6 months since applicant paid the issue fee. In periodic telephone communications with the Patent Office, applicant's counsel has been advised that the file is still in special handling and is involved with an outside contractor. In view of the many months since the issue fee was paid, applicant's counsel respectfully requests that the Patent Office advise the undersigned applicant's counsel as to when applicant can expect this patent to be issued.

Respectfully submitted,

PEARNE & GORDON LLP

John P. Murtaugh

John P. Murtaugh, Reg. No. 34226

1801 East 9th Street, Suite 1200
Cleveland, Ohio 44114-3108
(216) 579-1700

Date: Jan. 12, 2005

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on the date indicated below.

John P. Murtaugh

Name of Attorney for Applicant(s)

Jan. 12, 2005

Date

John P. Murtaugh

Signature of Attorney